



July 21, 2006

This Week In Correction

A weekly update of events in the Tennessee Department of Correction

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE:



Commissioner Little appeared on Newschannel 5 TV-Nashville this week for the station's hour-long newsmaker show, "Open Line".

The commissioner answered a number of questions from callers.

Topics ranged from rehabilitation to retaining employees.

Commissioner Little said, "We have five-thousand professional staff members in the Department of Correction that I am really

proud of and proud to work with. It's an honor to be in a leadership position with this department. We are always looking for correctional professionals to join the department. Our pay is not the best, but it's gotten better."

The Department of Personnel has released the official list of job classifications that will receive Classification/Compensation increases. "I am pleased to say that many of our department's employees will be recipients of these funds," said Commissioner Little. Some of the classes included in the increases are the security series, training academy instructors, classification coordinators, and chaplains, storekeeper classes, accounting classes and personnel classes. "I will continue to press for additional funding to bring Department of Correction staff salaries to a level that is competitive with the current market and recognizes the knowledge and expertise we display on a daily basis. I appreciate all you do to protect and serve the citizens of the state of Tennessee," Little said.

If you have questions, please contact your local Human Resources Office.



TO CATCH A THIEF:



Dennis Armes, Counselor, MCCX assists police in bank robbery case.

While surfing the internet last week, Dennis Armes came across a news article detailing a rash of bank robberies in Oak Ridge, TN. Local police, the TBI and FBI were having a tough time locating the robber and needed the public's help.

A photo of the suspect (right) quickly caught Dennis' eye. Yep, the suspected robber was a former inmate who Dennis was able to identify. Armes immediately picked up the phone and alerted police. A week later the Oak Ridge bandit was nabbed. Good work Dennis! Dennis began his career with TDOC in January 1985 as a Correctional Officer. He was later promoted to Corporal, IRC, and is currently a Counselor 3 for Team 3 at **MCCX**. He is 49 years old, married with two children, three grandchildren, three foster children and an all around good guy!



TCA: READY, AIM, FIRE:

A second Glock training class for transportation officers was held this week at the Tennessee Correction Academy.





David Jordon and Rick Thompson are instructors of the Glock training classes.

Fourteen transportation officers received Glock Transition certification. They become the first group of full-time transportation officers to receive the training. Participants included:

Ronald Armstrong –**NECX**
 Bryant Campbell - **CBCX**
 Maurice Clift - **WCBC**
 Edwin Doolittle - **CBCX**
 David Garrett - **BMCX**
 Gene Gooch - **WTSP**
 Wendell Howard - **CBCX**
 Jerome Johnson - **CBCX**
 Darrell Petty - **WCBC**
 William Terrell - **CBCX**
 Garry Thompson - **CBCX**
 Terry Ward - **BMCX**
 Gary Williams -**MLRC**
 Major Williams - **WTSP**



CHARLIE'S PROMOTION:

Congratulations to Charlie Pardue on her promotion to Account Tech 2. Charlie has been with state government for 12 years, 3 here at Central Office. She is the proud mother of Taylor who turns 6 next week and is about to start 1st grade, at which time she will officially know more than her mother!



A HEALTHIER HEATHER: A personal success story!



Heather Day, Secretary, DeBerry Special Needs Facility.

A year ago I joined the East Nashville YMCA. I had never been one to buy into the whole "work out - no pain no gain" philosophy. But I figured it would be a nice way to meet new people and perhaps get in shape too. I noticed that there were several Yoga classes listed and decided to try my luck. I have never been overly flexible, and I sure wasn't some skinny-Minnie. But the very first class I went to, got me hooked right away. It is not your traditional "om" Yoga class; it is more of a Power Yoga.

It moves very quickly, but Stephanie (our instructor) caters to each level. She uses lots of modifiers so no matter if it's your first class or 30th there is something for everyone.

As time went on, I noticed that not only was I getting in better shape, but my mind was a little clearer, my anger a little more subdued, my attitude a little happier. I find myself looking forward to every class, and each week I can do a pose a little better than the week before.

I have become so inspired by this experience that I am going to start training to become a teacher. It is a long road ahead, but I have nothing but time and a lot to gain.

Stephanie's Yoga class is on Thursday nights at 7:15 pm at the Margret Maddox East Nashville YMCA.

Employee Health Fair:

75 employees at **BMCX** and **MCCX** participated in a health fair provided by Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge that included bone density, body mass index and lung functions screenings as well as blood pressure checks.

Information was also provided on the dangers of smoking, diabetes, coping with shift working, heart attack, stroke, managing medications and sleep apnea.

Claudean Davis from records and P.J. Hensley, Switchboard Operator, both won fabulous door prizes. The health fair employees are very interested in returning next year for an even bigger and better health fair!

TEA TIME FOR SANDY:

After 22 “glorious” years, Sandy Haston, Account Clerk, **STSRCF**, is retiring. Sandy began her state service in the commissary as a store clerk and was promoted to the account clerk position in the fiscal department. She and her husband, Steve, have two sons and four grandchildren. Sandy will be greatly missed because she was always willing to drop what she was doing to help others with a smile. A retirement party held this week included all of Sandy’s family, along with several current and retired employees who gave her gift certificates, gardening supplies and an iced tea set to enjoy tea on her front porch during the hot days.



WCBC THIS WEEK:

Planning for the proposed Technical Violators Program continued this week with a video teleconference. Jackie Pevahouse, Richard May, IPO, Sgt. Scotty Smith, Cathy Seltzer and Deputy Warden Bruce Westbrook participated. Thanks to Central Office staff, Jim Dickman, Bill Gupton, Lolie Jones, Zoyle Jones and Sharmilla Patel and Robert Croteau, TCA, for their input.



Tennessee’s first sales tax holiday is approaching. Families can get a head start on back-to-school shopping beginning at 12:01 a.m. Friday, Aug. 4 and purchase school related items that cost less than \$100 per item- such as shoes, shirts and pants- without paying Tennessee’s state and local sales tax. Computers priced less than \$1,500 are also free of sales tax during the tax free weekend which continues until 11:59 p.m. on Sunday Aug. 6. Purchases can be made from Tennessee retailers, including those that sell through the internet or catalog if those items are to be delivered into Tennessee.

Anger, Stress and You!

Enhancing Life Skills

Class Times:
Mondays, 10:00 - 11:30
AM

Five Weeks
Beginning Sept. 18,
2006



Class (using
social learning
theory) will
enhance one's
options in
managing anger
with self and

For further information call 741-1925

Deadline for Reservations-August 25, 2006

Limited Number of Spaces Available

CLASS OFFERED IN NASHVILLE ONLY!

**Sponsored by the Employee Assistance
Program**

RELAY FOR LIFE HORSE SHOW:

The “Brushy Gang” relay for life team from **BMCX** and **MCCX** raised \$700.00 during a horseshow at the Morgan County Fairgrounds. 19 classes were shown in honor of cancer survivors and lost loved ones. Several employees from **BMCX** and **MCCX** gave their time and talents to help with the show. The event was coordinated by Tina Smith, Account Clerk, **MCCX**, an avid horse lover.



Special thanks to Sgt. Steve Potter, **MCCX**, Sgt. Shawn Phillips, **MCCX**, Jimbo Godwin, Recreation Assistant 1, Toni Potter, Administrative Assistant 1, Cpl. Denise Hall, **BMCX**, who was team captain. The Morgan County rescue squad and Wartburg Volunteer Fire Department also donated their time. Earl's BBQ handled concessions and donated 25% of their proceeds to the Relay for Life fund.

PROFILES IN CORRECTION: The Untold Story



Carl Owens, Administrative Lieutenant, STSRCF.

“Everybody has a story”. That’s the reason Lt. Carl Owens has turned out to be such a great listener. There’s always a connection, he says. It’s the reason he loves being around people and has never met a stranger. “I love to talk to people you’d be amazed at what you find out!”

How long have you been at STSRCF?

“23 years. I’m going to stay at least 20 more. I’m young, in relatively good health for I’ll stay as long as the department has a place for me.

Why did you decide to work here?

At the time, I was looking for a way to get my college funded. This looked like a place to provide that and make a living. The department has been really good to me. But, sometimes our path changes right in the middle of course, it didn’t work out that way but I’ve been able to rise in rank. We don’t have high turnover here so I’m well satisfied with my rise. We all complain about what we make but it’s been an enjoyable ride.

What do you do during your time away from work?

“I’m an old car enthusiast. I build a lot of old cars, enjoy them, sell them and work on something else. The ’70 Chevy is my favorite. I’ve got a younger brother and I’m restoring one for him. He’s wanted one all his life and we’re doing that for him, we’ve spent a lot of time together in my garage. In this line of work it’s good to have something to get your mind off of it; you gotta leave your work sometimes”.

Who or what has had the biggest influence on your life?

"I lost my Mom and Dad when I was really young and it made me grow up quickly. Everything I've done in my life has been a have to case. I was a senior in high school, getting ready to go to college, and then reality hits you.

What is the best advice you've been given?

"A Lieutenant who passed away told me, always remember who you step on when you climb the ladder, you don't have to use people to get where you want to be. In my career, I hope I haven't stepped on anyone. Things are better than I deserve. I've got a great life!"

Carl is a recent graduate of the National Institute of Corrections Management Development for the Future and an officer on the organization's board of directors.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK:

Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage

-Submitted by Sharon Magee, CCIII-Intake/New Admissions, TPFW

-The grass may be greener on the other side, but it still has to be mowed